

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 10550 251212Z

44

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 COME-00 NASA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-03

NSC-05 SS-15 CAB-02 DOTE-00 FAA-00 MC-02 ACDA-05 /070 W

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R 251202Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8823

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PASS COMMERCE BIC FOR HOSTLER

PASS NASA CODE I

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, TSPA, FR

SUBJ: PROPOSED DISPLAY OF LOCKHEED U-2 AT PARIS AIR

SHOW

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED BY LOCAL LOCKHEED REP AND BY USDOC WASHINGTON OF LOCKHEED PROPOSAL TO DISPLAY HIGH ALTITUDE RESEARCH AIRCRAFT U-2 AT PARIS AIR SHOW UNDER NASA SPONSORSHIP BUT AT LOCKHEED EXPENSE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT COMMERCE IS WITHHOLDING ITS APPROVAL OF THIS PROPOSAL PENDING RECEIPT OF OUR COMMENTS.

2. CONSULTATION AMONG APPROPRIATE MEMBERS OF COUNTRY TEAM HAS LED US TO CONCLUDE THAT THERE IS SOME RISK THAT DISPLAY OF THIS AIRCRAFT, PARTICULARLY UNDER USG AUSPICES, WOULD ATTRACT ADVERSE COMMENT IN FRENCH PRESS, COULD LEAD TO UNFRIENDLY DEMONSTRATIONS BY ANTI-AMERICAN ELEMENTS IN PARIS AREA AND COULD BE CONSTRUED BY SOVIET CO-EXHIBITORS AS PROVOCATIVE ACT. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT PARIS WAS SITE OF SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN 1960 WHICH WAS BROKEN OFF BECAUSE OF U-2 OVERFLIGHTS OF USSR.

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PAGE 02 PARIS 10550 251212Z

3. WHILE WE ARE NOT IN POSITION TO ASSESS WITH ACCURACY THE DEGREE OF RISK IN SHOWING U-2, WE FEEL THIS RISK MAY BE WORTH RUNNING ONLY IF IT CAN BE CONVINCINGLY DEMONSTRATED THAT U-2 AIRCRAFT HAS SUBSTANTIAL MARKET POTENTIAL IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES FOR NON-MILITARY AND NON-INTELLIGENCE APPLICATION. THUS FAR LOCKHEED REPS HERE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO PROVIDE CREDIBLE JUSTIFICATION ON THESE GROUNDS. WHILE RISK OF UNFRIENDLY REACTION IS ROUGHLY THE SAME WHETHER AIRCRAFT IS DISPLAYED PRIVATELY BY LOCKHEED OR UNDER NASA SPONSORSHIP, IT IS CLEAR THAT IN LATTER CASE ANY OPPROBRIUM WOULD BE FOCUSED ON USG PER SE.

4. IF WASHINGTON AGENCIES SHOULD DECIDE ON BASIS OF EXAMINATION OF ALL FACTORS INVOLVED THAT U-2 SHOULD BE EXHIBITED, WE RECOMMEND EMBASSY BE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT FRENCH AUTHORITIES BEFORE DECISION IS MADE FINAL AND IS ANNOUNCED.
RUSH

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750145-1128
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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